



Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety

FIRE PREVENTION UNIT



PLACES OF ASSEMBLY

General Regulations & Guidelines

DEFINITION:

Places of Assembly: A building or portion of a building used for the gathering together of 50 or more persons for such purposes as deliberation, education, instruction, worship, entertainment, amusement, drinking or dining, or awaiting transportation. (202 CFC)

REGULATIONS:

Candles & Open Flame Devices: Open-flame devices shall not be used in a Group A occupancy. Refer to the CFC section for exemption for religious purposes, stage performances, or candles on tables when securely supported with substantial non-combustible bases. (308.3.7 CFC)

Decorative Materials: Curtains, draperies, hangings, or other decorative materials suspended from walls or ceilings shall meet flame propagation performance criteria of NFPA 701 or be noncombustible. (807.1 CFC)

Exit Signs: Required for exits and exit access doors except in rooms or areas that require only one exit or exit access. (1011.1 CFC)

- **Illumination** – Exit signs shall be internally or externally illuminated. (1011.2 CFC)
- **Power source** – Required to ensure illumination for duration of not less than 90 minutes in case of primary power loss (batteries, generators, etc.) (1011.5.3 CFC)

Fire Extinguishers: Size, installation, and maintenance of extinguishers shall be in accordance with the CFC and Title 19 CCR. (906.2 CFC)

Fireworks, Pyrotechnics & Flame Special Effects: These are generally prohibited. Refer to Title 19 CCR for regulations/exemptions.

Overcrowding: A condition that exists when either there are more people in a building, structure, or portion thereof than has been authorized or posted by the fire code official, or when the fire code official determines that a threat exists to the safety of the occupants due to persons sitting and/or standing in locations that may obstruct or impede the use of aisles, passages, corridors, stairways, exits or other components of the means of egress. (107.6 & 202 CFC)

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Means of Egress: A continuous and unobstructed path to vertical and horizontal egress travel from any occupied portion of a building or structure to a public way. A means of egress consists of three separate and distinct parts: the exit access, the exit, and the exit discharge. (1002 CFC)

- Doors markings - shall be readily distinguishable, shall not be concealed, mirrors not allowed (1008.1 CFC)
- Door hardware – door handles, pulls, latches, locks, and other operating devices are required to be assessable and shall by Chapter 11A of the CBC and shall not require tight grasping, tight pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate. (1008.1.8.1 CFC)
- Door locks – Manually operated flush bolts or surface bolts are not permitted. (1008.1.8.4 CFC, refer to 1008.1.8.3 CFC for additional details)
- Door unlatching – the unlatching of any door or leaf shall not require more than one operation. (1008.1.8.5 CFC)
- Illumination (emergency lighting) - required for the means of egress (except aisle access ways) (1006.1 CFC)
- Number of exits required – 2 exits or exit access doorways required. See 1019.1 for requirements 3 or more exits or exit access doorways. (1015.1 CFC)
- Obstructions – Obstructions shall not be placed in the required width of a means of egress except projections permitted by chapter 10. (1003.6 CFC)

CFC – California Fire Code
CBC – California Building Code
CCR – California Code of Regulations